

REMARKS

Claims 27-31 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-26 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sobolewski (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0064431).

Claims 21-23 have been cancelled

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 24-26 have been cancelled and new claims 27-31 are added.

New claims 27-29 encompass the information contained in cancelled claims 24-26 and claims 30 and 31 are supported in the specification, page 27, lines 8-14.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith. The cited art corresponds to the references cited in the counterpart European patent application. One of the cited references (4,754,397) has already been cited by the Applicants in a previous Information Disclosure Statement.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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